

**NORTHEASTERN GREAT BASIN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES ASSESSMENT  
2011  
ADDENDUM TO FINAL DETERMINATIONS**

**RUBY #8 ALLOTMENT, BENNETT FIELD ALLOTMENT**

Wells Field Office

**I. Introduction**

In accordance with 43 CFR 4180, the Elko Field Office is required to complete standards and guidelines assessments on grazing allotments in order to determine whether or not existing grazing management practices are resulting in the attainment of the standards for rangeland health and are in conformance with the guidelines. The following assessment is based on a review of data collected in the spring of 2010. This assessment is in accordance with BLM Manual 4180-1, *Rangeland Health Standards*, approved on January 19, 2001.

This assessment is an addendum to the Northeastern Great Basin Standards and Guidelines Assessments (S&G) for Ruby #8 and Bennett Field Allotments completed in 2006. These S&G assessments did not consider Standard 2, Riparian Wetland Areas, because none were thought to exist in the allotment. Further reconnaissance indicated that although surface water within the allotments is not perennial, the ponding of water as described below is sufficiently frequent to result in the presence of waterfowl which is a riparian/wetland value. The standard is as follows:

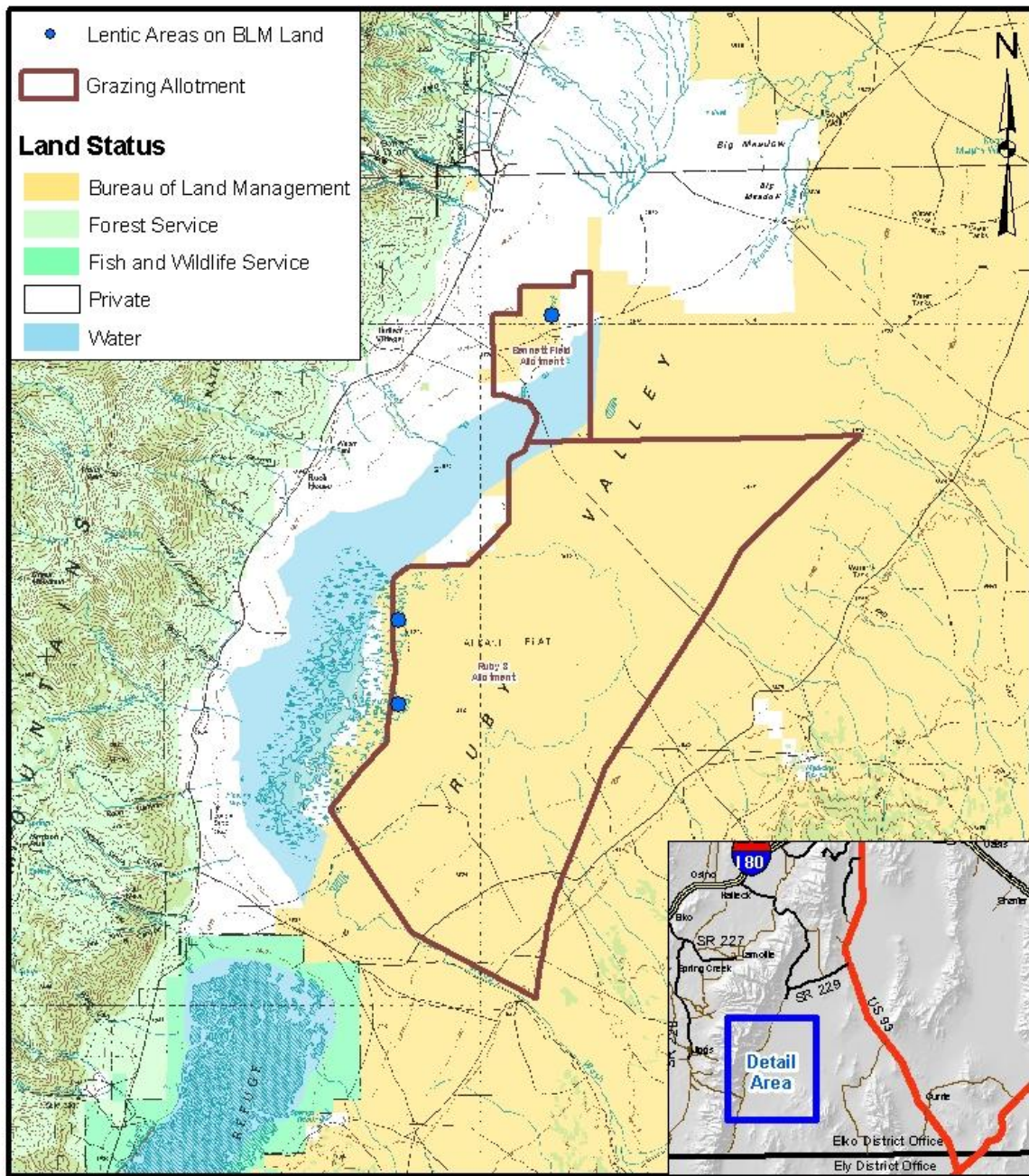
Standard 2. Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.

**II. Description of the Allotments**

Descriptions of the Ruby #8 and Bennett Field Allotments are available in the 2006 S&G Assessments. In addition to those descriptions, this addendum describes riparian wetland areas present in the allotments.

The Ruby #8 and Bennett Field Allotments contain some low lying areas that are subject to flooding during winter and spring resulting in areas of ponding water (lentic areas). These areas exist throughout the Bennett Field Allotment and on the western boundary of the Ruby #8 Allotment (see map and pictures below). Frequency of flooding and ponding of water are thought to be frequent (1-3 years) as evidenced by the presence of contrasting soils, lack of vegetation where ponds occur, and firsthand observations by BLM personnel. These lentic areas do not contain obligate riparian vegetation; however waterfowl are present indicating some riparian value.

## Ruby #8 and Bennett Field Allotments Lentic Areas



"NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AS TO THE ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, OR COMPLETENESS OF THESE DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL USE OR AGGREGATE USE WITH OTHER DATA."

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Miles







Lentic area in Bennett Field Allotment



Saltgrass present on shorelines in Bennett Field and Ruby #8 Allotment

### III. Assessment

Observations indicated that grazing does occur within and near lentic areas but does not appear to have substantive impacts. A Proper Functioning Condition Assessment was completed in 2011 to establish the condition of lentic areas in these allotments. An interdisciplinary team concluded that the areas were in Proper Functioning Condition given their capability. No water quality data have been collected, but given the good riparian condition it can be inferred that water quality is not negatively impacted by livestock grazing.

### IV. Conclusions and Determinations

This section draws conclusions and makes determinations regarding:

- A. Progress towards or attainment of the standards for rangeland health, and
- B. Whether livestock management is in conformance with the guidelines, and
- C. Whether existing grazing management or levels of grazing use are significant factors in failing to achieve the standards or conform with the guidelines.

**Standard 2. Riparian and Wetland Sites:** Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria

This standard is being **met**, and livestock grazing management practices are considered to be in conformance with the guidelines.

**Rationale:** The Proper Functioning Condition Assessment indicates that riparian areas are in Proper functioning condition given their capability. There is no evidence that Narrative water quality standards outlined in Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 445A are not being met.

#### Determination

Based on the data presented in this assessment, I have determined that Standard 2 for rangeland health is being met. As stated above, the rest of the standards have already been assessed in the 2006 S&G assessment.

/s/	11/2/2011
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